

Dear Chairman Powell and Commissioners,
As a citizen I want to be informed about political and electoral issues that affect my life. I am disappointed by the lack of informative television programming.

Local public affairs programming constitutes less than one half of 1% of all local programming. More than half of news broadcasts prior to the 2002 elections did not include a single campaign story. Our democracy is at risk if Americans don't know basic facts about the candidates, the issues, and candidates' positions on these issues. .

Broadcasters have failed in their obligation to serve the public interest; therefore, the FCC needs to define meaningful public interest requirements that include local civic and electoral affairs programming. At a minimum, broadcasters should offer three hours each week of local civic and electoral affairs programming, with at least two hours devoted to substantive election coverage in the six weeks prior to Election Day.

As the elections approach, it is critical that citizens hear diverse voices and opinions in order to be well informed about choices they must make.

Sincerely,

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